

EL741832515US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Stephen John Hinde,                    ) Re: Preliminary Amendment  
  ) et al.  
  )  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned                        )  
  ) Our Ref: B-4399 619337-2  
Filing date: concurrently herewith                )  
  )  
For: "VOICE COMMUNICATION                        )  
      CONCERNING A LOCAL ENTITY"                ) Date: November 21, 2001

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
BOX NEW PATENT APPLICATION  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
P.O. BOX 2327  
ARLINGTON, VA 22202

Sir:

Prior to examining this application, it is respectfully requested  
that the following amendment be made to the claims:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace Claim 10 with new amended Claim 10 which is set forth  
below. A marked copy of amended Claim 10 is presented in the  
Appendix to this preliminary amendment.

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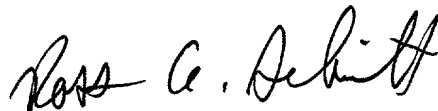
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein sound output is through multiple sound output devices controlled so that the sound appears to be originating from said local entity.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends Claim 10. Claim 10 is amended so that this claim is no longer multiply dependent in order to reduce the official fees which will be due. The Applicant may elect to amend Claim 10 to make it again multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims at any time during the pendency of the above-identified U.S. application.

Amendment of the subject application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Appendix A (1 page)

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Appendix A

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

Please amend the claim as follows:

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or claim 5], wherein sound output is through multiple sound output devices controlled so that the sound appears to be originating from said local entity.

10. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or claim 5], wherein sound output is through multiple sound output devices controlled so that the sound appears to be originating from said local entity.